



# Fact Sheet

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## Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) element provides the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) with a globally transportable, rapidly deployable capability to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles inside or outside the atmosphere during their final, or terminal, phase of flight.

### Overview

- Land-based element capable of shooting down a ballistic missile both inside and just outside the atmosphere
- Highly effective against the asymmetric ballistic missile threats
- Uses hit-to-kill technology whereby kinetic energy destroys the incoming warhead
- The high-altitude intercept mitigates effects of enemy weapons of mass destruction before they reach the ground

### Details

- A THAAD Battery consist of four main components:  
**Launcher:** Truck mounted, highly mobile, able to be stored; interceptors can be fired and rapidly reloaded  
**Interceptors:** Eight per launcher  
**Radar:** Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance (AN/TPY-2) – Largest air-transportable X-band Radar in the world searches, tracks, and discriminates objects and provides updated tracking data to the interceptor  
**Fire Control:** Communication and data-management backbone; links THAAD components together; links THAAD to external Command and Control nodes and to the entire BMDS; plans and executes intercept solutions
- Rapid deployment; can be air-lifted anywhere in the world within hours. Also sea- and land-transportable



### Development

- State-of-the-art engineering ensures high standards and efficient production and maintenance
- Comprehensive program of ground tests, quality assurance, and design and development activities support mission success
- Major events in the THAAD program:
  - Continuing to build, test and verify THAAD initial operational capability
  - Returned to flight test on November 22, 2005 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico
  - Completed seven successful intercept tests, including operationally realistic tests in March 2009 and June 2010 which resulted in the successful intercept of separating and short range unitary ballistic missile targets at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii
  - Continuing element development to incrementally improve missile defense capability

### Procurement

- First two batteries in production (awarded December 2006). Total hardware for Battery #1 & #2 include: 6 Launchers, 2 Fire Control & Communications components, 2 AN/TPY-2 Radars, and 50 Interceptors
- Continued planning and initiation of Lot production in 2010 for additional batteries and interceptors

### Fielding

- Activated first THAAD Battery in May 2008 and second THAAD Battery in October 2009
- Conducting soldier training and certification of Battery #2 at Fort Bliss, Texas
- Continuing planning for transition of operations to the Army